REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the application; new claims 20 and 21 have been added. Please charge the fee required for **one extra claim in excess of 20** in the amount of $18.00 to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 has been corrected as suggested by the examiner.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-10, 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Rüffer et al. (US 6,189,572)*.

Claim 1 has been amended and now claims a storage device having a housing with an interior provided with at least one partitioning element that divides the interior into a first chamber for receiving the liquid medium and into a second chamber filled at least partially with a gas under pressure, wherein the gas keeps the liquid medium in the first chamber under pressure. The housing has a pressure connector configured to allow the liquid medium to flow into and out of the first chamber. The at least one partitioning element comprises an expandable bellows and a bottom part that delimits the second chamber relative to the first chamber and has an end position in which the bottom part closes off the pressure connector to prevent the liquid medium from flowing in and out of the first chamber.

Accordingly, in the device of the present invention the pressure connector is closed off by the bottom part of the bellows. The bottom part that delimits the second chamber is the part that closes off the pressure connector - no other parts are required for sealing or closing the connector.

In contrast to this, the device of *Rüffer et al.* discloses a pressure accumulator that has a housing 1 containing a liquid medium. The housing 1 has a pressure chamber 2 filled with a gas under high pressure. The pressure chamber 2 is delimited by bellows 3 that is connected to the lid 9 of the housing 1. A spring 4 is supported against the bellows 3 and fastened to the valve 6 so that the spring 4 loads valve 6 in the direction toward the fluid port 5 provided in the housing 1. According to col. 2, lines 60ff, the spring 4 provides decoupling of bellows 3 and fluid port 5. When the pressure in the chamber 2 is greater

than in the chamber 11 of the housing 1, the valve 6 closes off the port 5. When a certain pressure is reached within the chamber 2, the spring 4 is compressed to such an extent that the bottom of the bellows 3 and the valve 6 rest against one another. This prior art configuration is complex and expensive because of the spring 4 and the valve 6 with sealing element 10. The large number of parts moreover leads to a relatively high failure risk of the arrangement.

The storage device according to the invention is characterized in that the closing element for closing the pressure connector is simply provided by the bottom part 10 delimiting the pressure chamber 8. Intermediate elements as they are disclosed in the cited prior art reference (e.g., spring 4, valve 6, sealing element 10) are not required. Accordingly, the storage device according to the present invention can be manufactured simply and inexpensively. In particular, the storage device of the present invention is characterized by having great reliability because failure-prone parts for closing the pressure connector are not present.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-4, 10-15, 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Chambers (US 3,477,195)*.

The decisive features of the present invention have been explained above and reference is being had to this discussion. The second prior art reference to *Chambers* concerns a dispensing container comprising a casing 10 with an outlet closed off by a valve 18. The dispensing container has a chamber that is delimited by bellows 40 and contains the medium 55 to be dispensed. The chamber is open in the direction toward the valve 18. The valve 18 is closed in normal position in order to retain the medium 55. When actuating the valve 18 (by depressing the valve stem 34), the valve opens to allow the medium 55 to be dispensed through the valve 18. A reverse flow into the chamber delimited by the bellows 40 is not possible through the valve 18. Medium flow through the valve in and out of the chamber is not possible.

The dispensing container is not a storage device in which the bellows 40 will expand and contract in accordance with the system pressure to allow the medium to flow in and out of the chamber according to the pressure variations. The medium contents in the

chamber is expelled under pressure from the bellows 40 by actuating the valve 18. The gas that is present between the housing 10 and the exterior of the bellows 40 is provided in order to maintain the medium within the chamber under pressure for proper dispensing The container is therefore not a storage device as characterized in the present invention, i.e., allowing medium to flow in and out of the chamber as needed. The container of the prior art cannot store medium by expanding and contracting the bellows 9 as a function of the system pressure.

Moreover, the passage for the medium to be dispensed is not closed off at the inner side of the container by a bottom part of the partitioning element that closes off the passage when in an end position for preventing flow in and out of the passage. The valve 18 closes off the passage in its normal state and allows passage only when dispensing of the medium is desired without allowing return of the medium into the bellows.

Because of the differences in function and configuration, there is no reason for a person skilled in the art to consider the disclosed prior art configuration when problems in regard to storing a medium in accordance with system pressure variations by means of a bellows that expands and contracts are to be solved. Even when considering the teachings of the prior art reference to *Chambers*, the features as provided in claim 1 are not anticipated or obvious. The cited prior art reference does not show that the partitioning element has a bottom part delimiting the pressure chamber and that the bottom part closes off the pressure connector.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are therefore believed to be allowable in view of the cited prior art reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102 are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 17 (the examiner refers to claim 16 but obviously claim 17 is meant because the feature "curved" is discussed) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rüffer et al. (US 6,189,572)*. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chambers (US 3,477,195)*. Claims 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable as a dependent claim of claim 1, respectively.

New Claims 20 and 21

Applicant has added new claims 20 and 21 concerning a control device as disclosed in connection with Figs. 15 and 16. The control device includes a storage device of the type claimed in claim 1: a pressure chamber (second chamber) arranged in a receptacle (first chamber) of a magnet housing for solenoids, wherein the pressure chamber is delimited by a bellows relative to the receptacle and wherein the bellows has a moveable end that is closed off by a bottom part, wherein the bottom part closes off a pressure connector of the solenoid housing opening into the receptacle (first chamber).

The same features as discussed above in connection with claim 1 are contained in claim 20: the same arguments as presented above in connection with claim 1 therefore apply also in regard to claim 20. Claims 20 and 21 are believed to be allowable over the two cited prior art references for the reasons presented above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on October 4, 2004.

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